



HCTA REPORTER

Electronic Version
June 2014

A Union of Education Professionals

An official Publication of the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association

Affiliated with FEA, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO

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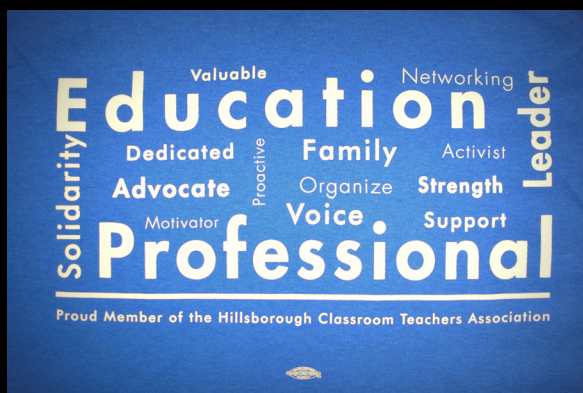
Patrick Boyko - SDHC Teacher of the Year & Jean Clements - HCTA President



HCTA members, Kim Henriquez & Rob Kriete, lobbying during the legislative session in Tallahassee with President Jean Clements (taking photo).



HCTA members at the AFT PSRP Conference (l-r): Felicia Johnson, June Fulton, Marilyn Dupree (HCTA VP), Eric Mack (Board Member), Crystal Blanco (Board Member), & Linda Huie (Board Member)



Design on the back of HCTA's New T-Shirt!

THE REALLY IMPORTANT SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION IN AUGUST, AND OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF

by Jean Clements



August 26, just two and a half months away, will determine much of what your future will look like as an employee in Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Three of our seven school board seats are up for election this year, and two of them, Districts 2 and 4, have no incumbent running and are likely to yield a winner on August 26. Both elections have some repeat candidates, as well as fresh faces.

District 2 represents southwest Hillsborough County and South Tampa. District 4 represents east Hillsborough County, including Plant City and Brandon. The other race, District 6, is county-wide and at the time of this writing has nine candidates running, including the incumbent. District 6 will likely see a run-off November 4; with so many candidates, it will take great effort to make it into that run-off.

In each race, there is a wide range of qualifications, philosophy, and motivation to run for school board. The qualifications, intelligence, and personalities of the individual board members, combined with the group dynamics when they sit together as a board determines whether or not they assist or detract from the district's ability to ensure a high quality teaching, learning, and work environment for all students, teachers, and support staff. They can provide thoughtful and insightful leadership, or cause

distraction and confusion. They can elevate morale, or deflate it.

School employees make up one of the largest sets of educated voters in our community. As a group, we are very cognizant of the importance and impact of civic action. We understand that it truly does matter who is in office. We see the immediate difference in our schools – positive or negative – and we know the effect it will ultimately have on our entire community.

There is no excuse for any school employee not to vote. None. Ever. But things happen. The best intentions get thwarted by a sick child or an elderly parent, a mortgage closing or new car purchase, a neighbor or colleague who needs assistance, a pet having puppies or getting lost, unexpected home or auto repair emergencies. Urgent priorities take over and some folks don't make it to the polls on Election Day.

With Early Voting and Vote by Mail, there is no excuse for any of us to not vote. Personally, I LOVE to go to the polls on Election Day. But too many things can happen on that One Day, and several years ago HCTA and FEA pushed for everyone to go to early voting sites to ensure our votes got cast.

We encouraged faculties and friends to go together to Early Voting sites. We threw parties, carpooled together, and wore our "I Voted" stickers for weeks. I quickly grew to love Early Voting, especially in the 2008 presidential election, when people stood in line – to vote early – anxious to ensure their vote was cast and counted. In many places that year, the lines were longer during Early Voting than on Election Day.

But even with the convenience of Early Voting, and all the days and locations to choose from, there have been times when day after day, my plans to vote would get put aside until finally, in the last hours of the last day of Early Voting, I'd find myself racing to a public library polling

site to get my voting done before Election Day.

So now I've switched to Vote by Mail. With Vote by Mail, you have the advantage of voting at your leisure. You can sit down with your candidate notes and favorite endorsement lists, and not feel pressured by people standing in line behind you, or worry that you forgot your cheat sheet and have to remember all those judges' names, or fret over whether you are reading the constitutional amendments correctly. I have known people who voted yes, when they absolutely meant no, because they misunderstood the legalese of the amendment as written on the ballot.

With Vote by Mail, you can eliminate those problems and avoid that anxiety. You can even call a friend (or HCTA) to ask for clarification, or you might Google information or endorsements WHILE YOU'RE VOTING!

But you must be registered, prepared, and informed. Here's where you start. (This is so quick and simple!) Go to www.votehillsborough.org. On the top bar of the home page you can click on *My Registration Status*, and in less than 30 seconds you can review and/or update your voter registration information, find your polling place, see the sample ballot for your address, and more. It took me two extra minutes to complete my request to Vote by Mail, including finding my typos and making corrections.

If you are not registered to vote in Hillsborough County, you can do that at the same site in about three minutes.

Continued on Page 2

SAVE THE DATE!

HCTA Rep Training

**Thursday, August 7th
& Friday, August 8th**

**Invitations will be sent out
via personal email in July.**

THE REALLY IMPORTANT SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION (CONT.)

You can have everything translated to Spanish in under 2 seconds. (I did that, too. Several times. Cool to watch!)

You can see every candidate who has filed for each race, and how much money they have raised.

You can read below about HCTA's endorsement process, and how our screening of school board candidates went.

After endorsements for state races are finalized through FEA, we will share those results with you as well.

When the local area Central Labor Council (an affiliation of most of the unions in the extended bay area, including the education unions) concludes the recommendation process for local county and city races, we will also share those.

School will be out, so we will mail information to your home and also communicate through personal email. So make sure you to take a moment to go to www.hillsboroughcta.org and click on *Email Opt In* in the top right hand corner. When school starts in

August, most of the voting by mail will be done. Early Voting at Library sites will be almost done.

Don't miss this election!

Check out the information at www.votehillsborough.org, order your Vote by Mail/Absentee ballot, and go to hillsboroughcta.org to sign up for HCTA's home email list for bargaining and election updates. Do it now, before summer fun, study, work, travel, or projects distract you.

Then cut loose and enjoy your summer!

SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENTS

HCTA held candidate screenings on Thursday, May 22, 2014. HCTA's endorsement process is:

- All candidates for each school board District are invited to participate and are notified, by mail and email, of the date and time of their specific interview.
- Each candidate is given a questionnaire to be completed prior to their interview.
- Candidates, or their official representatives, must be present at the interview in order to be considered for recommendations.
- Candidates are given the same time to answer questions and make a general statement.
- A discussion and vote for recommendation is made by HCTA members who attend the interview after hearing all the participating candidates for a particular race. The candidate receiving a majority vote is recommended to the HCTA Executive Board. HCTA may vote "no recommendation" for that race at that time.
- The HCTA Executive Board then renders a recommendation to the membership at its next meeting.

The results of the voting for the upcoming school board elections were:

- Seat 2: HCTA members voted to endorse Michelle Shimberg.
- Seat 4, HCTA members voted to endorse Melissa Snively.
- Seat 6, HCTA members voted to withhold an endorsement at this time.

MICHELLE SHIMBERG



"Each person employed by the district has a role to play in promoting educational excellence for students."

Michelle was born in Melbourne, FL and raised in Tampa. She, her husband, and all three of their children attended Hillsborough County Public Schools. She has been a passionate member of the education community for more than 20 years, serving as Chair/Vice Chair on the School Board's Citizen Advisory Committee, PTSA President at Mitchell Elementary, Wilson Middle, and Plant High School, and serving on the School Improvement Teams at Mitchell, Plant and Metropolitan Ministries Partnership School. Michelle has also been active in re-establishing the PTA at LaVoy Exceptional Center.

votemichelleshimberg.com

MELISSA SNIVELY



"Our focus should be on selecting the best teachers, rewarding them for superior performance and retaining them with appropriate incentives."

Melissa graduated from the University of Florida in 1993, where she was a Secondary Education and English major, and was President of the student NEA chapter of UF. She has been with State Farm Insurance since 1994 and she opened her own State Farm Insurance Agency in Lithia/FishHawk. She volunteers for many organizations, including the Junior League, Brandon Outreach Clinic, Cimino Elementary PTA, and Burns Middle PTSA. Melissa has four children, between the ages of 6 and 13, who all attend Hillsborough County Public Schools.

www.melissaforschoolboard.com

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

by Stephanie Baxter-Jenkins

I hope this issue finds all of you well and ready to begin a much deserved summer break or looking forward to shorter work weeks and some planned vacation! Over the summer, the HCTA bargaining team will work hard to improve your working conditions and pay at the negotiating table. As you know, we bargain a full contract for each bargaining unit (Teacher and ESP) every three years. Last year we did the full teacher contract and the year prior to that, we handled the full ESP contract. Negotiations for 2014 are, therefore, solely a “money” year in a strict sense. In money-only years, we do raise non-monetary issues, but the primary discussions revolve around financial issues including wages and benefits.

You are probably aware that two long-time negotiators for the district, Deputy Superintendent Dan Valdez and Chief Negotiator Buddy Raburn, retired early this year. So, this will be the union’s first time at the bargaining table with the new staff in these positions. In my experience, bargaining dynamics are driven by people as much as financial circumstances and we are embarking on a relationship with a whole new cast of characters. We certainly expect we can continue our history of honest dialog and problem-solving with the District’s new team.

In this regard, please keep an eye on your **personal e-mail** for updates from the team. If you haven’t yet signed up to receive personal email please do so as soon as possible--directions can be found in the inset in the lower right

corner of this page.

Our Priorities

1. A fair monetary settlement for all our members is always our number one priority. Given the significant enhancements to the teacher salary scale last year, we will be focussing on addressing financial issues, such as pay, work hours, and the salary schedule for our ESP members. Too many of our support staff don’t have a living wage and we need to focus our attention on updating the schedule so we can attract and maintain high quality paraprofessional and clerical employees. We secured a number of positive job reclassifications for the ESP unit last year, but we need to continue our efforts.

We will also be presenting changes to the psychologist pay scale, as well as looking at ways to address financial circumstances for some of our other special service providers, such as social workers and guidance counselors, who have advanced degree hiring requirements.

We will revisit pay issues with regard to rehired retirees.

2. We will continue to work to maintain a no-cost health care option for all full time employees and will continue to explore ways to make health care for families and/or dependents more affordable. In this regard, we will also be asking the district to add the option of domestic partner coverage.

3. We will be looking at a number of supplements to ensure fairness and equity.

4. ESE issues, especially related to

the transportation department will surely be discussed as well.

5. We will continue to work with our High Needs (Renaissance Schools) Committee to maintain differential pay, as well as additional non-monetary enhancements at the site level for Teachers and ESP.

There are certainly additional issues we will seek to address, but the above items capture the top priorities. Please keep in mind that, since this is a public document, our descriptions are general in nature.

The Bargaining Team

Chief Negotiator

Stephanie Baxter-Jenkins

President

Jean Clements

Vice-President

Marilyn Dupree

Bargaining Team

Janet Alwood

Crystal Blanco

Sabrina Gates- McCarthy

Maridea Groves

Paula Jo Haggerty

Richard Lucas

Analene Mccolloch

Cherie Miller

Michelle Miller

Jim Traun

Harrietta Willis

We hope to complete negotiations prior to the beginning of the school year, so that ratification can take place as soon as possible. Sign up for email so we can keep you posted!

THINKING ABOUT RETIRING?

Don't lose your union member benefits! As you know, as a member of HCTA, you are eligible for many discounts, insurance plans, and the very valuable FEA ACCESS card. However, all of those benefits disappear once you leave the school district and are no longer a member of HCTA...unless you continue your membership through the retired local, HEA-R!

I urge you to join our group and keep ALL of your benefits and discounts. Our dues are very reasonable and can be paid monthly or a one-time lifetime membership. This low fee keeps you in good standing as a member of HEA-R, FEA-R, NEA-R, and AFT-R.

For more information, go to www.hillsboroughcta.org.

Merrilyn Crosson - HEA-R President

EMAIL OPT-IN

Go to www.hillsboroughcta.org.

Click on the “Email Opt In” button in the upper right hand corner.

Enter your name, email address and Lawson Number.

Click “Submit”.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following information was pulled from the 2014 Legislative Summary published by the Florida Education Association's "Public Policy Advocacy Department".

To view the full document, go to: http://feaweb.org/_data/files/2014_post_session/2014_EOS_Report_2.pdf

Education Budget

FTE (Full Time Equivalent)

The budget funds 2,722,134.53 FTEs, an increase of 14,103 students. Per student funding is \$6,937 and represents a 2.61% over the previous year. The high mark for per student funding occurred in 2007 with the first 1st calculation – the one the legislature controls – at \$7,305.79/ufte.

FEFP

The Base Student Allocation (BSA) is \$4,031.77 per student.

PECO

For the previous four years running, Florida's traditional K-12 public schools were excluded from the state fund for school maintenance, repair, and renovation. All of the trust fund allocation, in the K-12 arena, went to charter schools. After years of being ignored or reduced, traditional public schools will receive more than 100 million maintenance and construction dollars to fix broken windows, air conditioners and leaky roofs in aging public schools. Lawmakers set aside \$75 million for charter schools.

Bills That Did Not Pass

Charter Schools

Dramatically expanding out of state charters, standardizing the contract between charters and more charter friendly provision. (7083)

Pension Reform

In various forms and combinations, the changes proposed having new state employees enroll in a "cash balance" plan and close the "defined benefit" plan to new hires after July 1, 2015. The bill would have kept defined benefit plans but increased the vesting period from 8 to 10 years

and have new employees default into a 401(k)-style plan if they didn't choose a plan in their first nine months on the job the traditional pension for "special risk" employees, such as police and firefighters.

Textbook Adoption

Mandated all school districts review textbooks and ended a state approval process for textbooks.

Guns in Schools

Allowed school employees or volunteers with law-enforcement or military training to carry firearms to fight back in the event of a schoolhouse attack.

Personal Finance Course

Required high school students take a semester-long course that deals with personal finances in lieu of other electives.

Common Core

Halted implementation of Florida's transition to new school standards based primarily on Common Core State Standards.

Bills That Passed

HB 5101 - Education Budget Conforming

This bill amends specific statutory provisions necessary to conform the statutes to appropriations made in the General Appropriations Act for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Among other things, it:

- Requires K12 schools to provide students with computer science and technology instruction, coding skills, digital literacy skills and course credit;
- Revises the use of funds in the SAI to include schools districts with one or more of the 300 lowest performing elementary schools based on reading assessments to provide an additional hour of reading instruction;
- Specifies a district may not hire more reading coaches unless all students scoring level 1 or 2 are provided the additional hour per day reading instruction;
- Establishes the Florida Digital Classroom Allocation to support efforts

to improve outcomes by integrating technology in the classroom.

CS/CS/SB 188 - Education Data Privacy

The bill implements changes proposed by the Florida Department of Education (DOE) in its report on Student Data Privacy Recommendations. It contains provisions to make students and their parents aware of educational privacy rights.

CS/HB 337 - Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program

This bill provides funding for teachers to purchase supplies and materials for their classrooms. The bill requires school districts to estimate, by July 1 each year, the number of classroom teachers expected to be employed by the district or a charter school in the district, and thus be eligible to receive funds through the Program on September 1.

The bill establishes an earlier, optional date by which program funds may be disbursed to classroom teachers depending on when the teachers are determined to be eligible. The district may distribute by August 1 proportionate shares of funds to classroom teachers determined to be eligible as of July 1. All funds must be disbursed by September 30.

CS/CS/HB 433 Educator Certification

Candidates seeking certification as a K-12 educator in Florida must demonstrate, among other things, mastery of general knowledge, subject area knowledge, and professional preparation and education competency. The bill sets forth the methods by which a candidate for educator certification may demonstrate mastery of subject area knowledge, including passage of a Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination specified by DOE rule. Among other things, the bill:

- Allows a candidate to demonstrate mastery of general knowledge by achieving passing scores on a national or international examination

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SIDE-BY-SIDE SALARY COMPARISON

Last summer, during bargaining for the 2013-2014 school year, HCTA's Bargaining Team worked diligently on changes and updates to the Teacher Contract, and salary increases for all members with a specific focus on the development of a new salary schedule for teachers.

The new salary schedule is based on years of experience with automatic movement each year.

Going forward, we will bargain for increases to the scale as opposed to simply movement up the scale. The benefit of doing this is that the increases are then compounded year over year, which results in overall higher earning potential over the course of a teacher's career with Hillsborough County.

The majority of teachers received a significant increase when they moved to the new schedule earlier this year. Just to give you an idea of how much we improved salaries with the new schedule, here is a side by side comparison of the teacher salaries from Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk.

The key item to note is that the total earning potential at current rates over a 30 year career are significantly higher than those of the surrounding counties.

Earning Potential For a 30 Year Career

Hillsborough	1,620,000
Pasco	1,279,000
Pinellas	1,377,955
Polk	1,401,125

PACKET STUFFING

We will be putting the packets together from **Monday, July 21st through Thursday, July 24th.**

If you would like to volunteer to help stuff the packets, please contact Sherry Gunn.

Phone: 813-238-7902
Email: sherry.gunn@floridaea.org

Years	Hillsborough	Pasco	Pinellas	Polk
0	38,000	37,000	40,000	36,750
1	38,000	37,050	40,000	37,750
2	38,000	37,100	40,000	38,350
3	42,000	37,150	40,000	38,950
4	42,000	37,200	40,000	39,550
5	42,000	37,250	40,000	40,150
6	46,000	37,350	40,000	40,750
7	46,000	37,700	40,000	41,350
8	46,000	38,050	40,360	41,950
9	50,000	38,450	40,723	42,550
10	50,000	38,900	41,090	43,150
11	50,000	39,400	41,500	43,750
12	54,000	39,950	42,000	44,350
13	54,000	40,550	42,300	44,950
14	54,000	41,200	42,600	45,550
15	58,000	41,900	42,972	46,150
16	58,000	42,650	43,617	46,750
17	58,000	43,450	44,271	47,350
18	62,000	44,250	44,935	47,950
19	62,000	45,050	45,609	48,550
20	62,000	45,850	46,978	49,150
21	66,000	46,650	48,387	49,750
22	66,000	47,450	49,839	51,000
23	66,000	48,300	51,334	52,520
24		49,150	53,387	53,500
25		50,000	56,056	56,175
26			58,859	58,175
27			60,625	
28			61,300	

HCTA SUMMER LEARNING CONFERENCE

FROM ROOTS TO RESULTS, GROWING PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

Friday, June 20, 2014 from 8:00am to 6:00pm

HCTA Professional Learning Center

3102 N. Habana Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607

Participants will choose a morning session and an afternoon session when they RSVP. The session options are listed below. Please note that some of the sessions have a limited number of seats. Seats will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to attend one of the “limited” sessions, please RSVP as soon as possible. The sessions in **blue** will be offered twice; once in the morning and once in the afternoon. The sessions in **red** will only be offered once. *Assessment...Learned or Not Learned?* will be offered in the morning and *Using Discussion to Promote Learning and Engagement* will be offered in the afternoon.

Morning Session Options

<i>Thinking Maps to Promote Thinking and Learning</i>	<i>Teach Like a Champion: Using the Field Guide to Enhance Professional Practice and Promote Learning</i>	<i>Rubric Investigation: Eye on Domain 1</i>	<i>Assessment... Learned or Not Learned? That is THE Question</i>
(15 seats)	(32 Seats)	(45 Seats)	(45 seats)

Afternoon Session Options

<i>Thinking Maps to Promote Thinking and Learning</i>	<i>Teach Like a Champion: Using the Field Guide to Enhance Professional Practice and Promote Learning</i>	<i>Rubric Investigation: Eye on Domain 1</i>	<i>Using Discussion to Promote Learning and Engagement</i>
(15 seats)	(32 Seats)	(45 Seats)	(45 seats)

Session Descriptions

Rubric Investigation: Eye on Domain 1:

“Unpack” Domain 1 to gain a deeper understanding of this portion of the Framework including ideas for best practices when planning instruction, real-world examples, and techniques for communicating information about Domain 1.

Teach Like a Champion: Using the Field Guide to Enhance Professional Practice and Promote Learning:

Using the Teach Like a Champion Field Guide, explore connections between Champion techniques and the HCPS Evaluation Framework to enhance best practices resulting in effective teaching and successful learning.

Thinking Maps to Promote Thinking and Learning:

Explore this concept for promoting active intellectual engagement and learning...mix *HOT!* with *learning tools and tasks*...

Assessment...Learned or Not Learned? That is THE Question:

Informal or formal? Formative or Summative? Embedded? Closing? Answer these questions, gain ideas, and further develop understanding of assessment as a tool for promoting learning.

Using Discussion to Promote Learning and Engagement:

Include every student? Promote student to student dialog? Step aside and allow students to facilitate? These questions, real examples of how, and connecting discussion to the Framework are the focus of this session.

To RSVP, call us at 813-238-7902 by Friday, June 13, 2014.

HILLSBOROUGH NBCT COUNCIL

by Faye Cook

Congratulations to Kayla Symonds, from Strawberry Crest High School, for earning the "Mary Gonzalez Scholarship" sponsored by the Hillsborough NBCT Council Network. Kayla is the daughter of HCTA Member, Kristine Claffie.

The HNBCT Council works year round to raise money to fund this annual college scholarship that is awarded to a family member of a Hillsborough National Board Certified Teacher.

The Hillsborough NBCT Council also hosts four dinner meetings each year, with the final meeting of the school year being the Award Ceremony. This year the keynote speaker at the Award Ceremony was Dr. Phil Jones, President of the Hillsborough Education Foundation.

HEF is a wonderful supporter of the National Board process, encouraging teachers to pursue the certification and providing tuition assistance to Hillsborough teachers who apply to

become board certified.

HCTA is also a strong supporter of the HNBCT Council and offered an award of \$250 this year and next year to each HCTA member who earned National Board certification.

Given that there are no financial incentives from the state of Florida for earning National Board Certification, the support of organizations such as HEF and HCTA is vital to the success of the program.

In the 2013-2014 school year, ten Hillsborough teachers earned National Board Certification, with nine of those ten being Hillsborough CTA members. Our members who earned National Board Certification are Tammy Crosby (Hillsborough High School), Heather Hanks (Bloomington High School), Adam Kloper (Robles Elementary), Sonja Lutz (Leto High School), Melissa Rigo-Miller (Lennard High School), Catlynn Scofield (Potter Elementary), Carlee Soto (Riverhills Elementary),

Lynda Taylor (Gaither High School), and Sandra Varn (Oak Park Elementary).

Four out of the six people who renewed their certification are also HCTA members. Those members are Kristine Claffie (Bevis Elementary), Zaan Gast (Hillsborough High School), Laura Johnson (Sulphur Springs Elementary), and David Pritchard (Sickles High School).

HCTA NBCTs provide training and support for National Board Candidates. HCTA has negotiated a supplement of \$1,000, paid by the school district, for NBCT's who provide ten hours of documented mentoring/training or related services. Together, we work for the good of our students in Hillsborough County.

If you would like to find out how to contribute to the Mary Gonzalez Scholarship, contact Dale Sena or Jim Roney through IDEAS. Both are active members of HCTA and the HNBCT Council.



Lynda Taylor (r), Chair of the Mary Gonzalez Scholarship Committee, presenting the scholarship check to this year's winner, Kayla Symonds.



School Board Recognition (l-r): H. Currey, H. Hanks, A. Kloper, L. Taylor, S. Lutz, S. Varn, T. Crosby, L. Johnson, & C. Soto.



Last year's Mary Gonzalez Scholarship winner, Annie Connally (r), presenting flowers to Kayla Symonds (l).



National Board Certified Teachers and guests at the May HNBCT Council Dinner.

VOTE FROM HOME!

Voting from the comfort of your home is the easiest way to vote!

In August, we will be electing members to the Hillsborough County School Board and in November, we will be electing a Florida Governor, all Florida House seats, and several Florida Senate seats. All these individuals have a direct impact on public education and our future. In an effort to be sure our voice is heard we encourage you to vote by mail. To receive a Vote by Mail ballot, go to the Supervisor of Elections website at www.votehillsborough.org. Your ballot must be received no later than six (6) days prior to the election.

If you are 18 years old, a US citizen and legal resident of Florida, and have not yet registered to vote, you may do so on the same web site. You must register at least 29 days before you can vote in an election.

If your address has changed since the last election notify the Supervisor of Elections via telephone or by submitting the change of address on a voter registration application.

The right to vote is one of the most fundamental liberties we enjoy as Americans and it is also one of our greatest civic responsibilities. Be sure to VOTE in August and November so that our voices as public educators are heard.

SAVE YOURSELF THE TRIP!

Hundreds of educators in our area have already chosen to vote from home, because it's the simplest way to go!

2014 ISN'T 2012!

Even if you voted by mail in 2012, it DOESN'T mean that you will receive a mail ballot now - you need sign up again.

REGISTRATION AND IMPORTANT DATES!

Voter Registration Deadlines - Voter registration deadline is 29 days prior to any election. Any political party change must be made at least 29 days prior to a partisan primary election in order to be valid in that election.

Last Day to Register for Primary Election: July 28, 2014

Early Voting for Primary Election: August 14 - 24

Primary Election: August 26, 2014

Last Day to Register for General Election: October 6, 2014

Early Voting for General Election: October 23 - November 2

General Election: November 4, 2014

HCTA MEMBER PICNIC

HCTA held our annual Member Picnic at Boggy Bottom Ranch on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014. Although the weather didn't cooperate, we had a great turnout and several hundred members and their families enjoyed a fun day with delicious food, musical entertainment and a lot of great door prizes.



Two of our members were very happy to win 42" TVs donated by our benefits partners, NTA Life!



HCTA Staff Reps, Woodrow Samuel and Rachelle Frierson.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

that tests comparable content and relevant standards in verbal, analytical writing, and quantitative reasoning skills;

- Allows candidates to renew a subject area specialization by passage of a Florida-developed subject area examination or a standardized examination.

CS/CS/SB 850 - Relating to Education

This bill expands curricular, assessment, and instructional options available to public elementary, middle, and high school students. The bill:

- Clarifies digital skill areas and certificate options for elementary students;
 - Expands acceleration options and strengthens accountability requirements for middle grade students and adds increased reporting on students at the school level;
 - Requires any public middle school to implement an early warning system to identify students at-risk of not graduating from high school and annually reporting information and data in its school improvement plan;
 - Specifies professional development requirements for middle grade teachers related to accountability requirements and new digital skills and content available to students;
- Additionally, the bill establishes bonus funding for elementary schools and teachers who directly assist students in attaining new digital skills, and expands funding to middle and high schools and teachers who directly assist students in attaining digital skills and industry certifications.

VOUCHERS

Using a procedural maneuver on the last day of session, the Florida Senate and then the Florida House passed a controversial expansion of the school voucher program. The 141-page amendment included much of the language from SB 1512 and includes the expansion of the Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

Personalized Learning Scholarship Accounts

This portion of the bill creates a new scholarship program called "Personal

Learning Scholarship Accounts" for kindergarten through grade 12 students with a specified disability. The new scholarship program created by the bill:

- Specifies parent and student eligibility requirements, prohibitions, responsibilities and obligations; It makes the SFO the management organization.
 - Delineates allowable expenditures.
 - Provides funding, payment, and accountability responsibilities.
- In addition to new pathway options for students, the bill:
- Requires postsecondary goals and career transition planning processes begin before a student with a disability turns age 14;
 - Provides students with disabilities with additional opportunities to satisfy the requirements for a standard high school diploma; and
 - Allows a student with a disability to defer receipt of the standard high school diploma if the individual education plan (IEP) prescribes special education or services through age 21 and the student meets high school graduation and other requirements.

SB 1642: Education Accountability

This bill makes substantial changes to Florida's public school statewide assessment and accountability system, including revisions to school grading and school improvement rating. The bill:

- Defines "achievement level" as the level of content mastery a student has acquired in a particular subject as measured by a statewide, standardized assessment and defines "learning gains" systems as the degree of student learning growth occurring from one school year to the next as required by State Board rule for purposes of calculating school grades;
- Revises the school grading system, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year re-focusing the school grading formula on student success measures of achievement, learning gains, graduation, and earning college credit and/or industry certifications.

Grades are based on the percentage of total points earned, rather than the raw score of total points;

- Provides for a one-year transition period, during which the calculation of school grades and school improvement ratings for the 2013-2014 school year are based on the law and rules in effect on June 30, 2014. School grades are calculated based on new statewide; standardized assessments. The 2014-2015 school grades serve as an informational baseline for schools to work toward improved performance in future years;
- Provides for a hold-harmless period during the transition for schools subject to a turnaround option, virtual schools or approved virtual instruction providers, and high performing charter school systems or school districts.
- Requires school district grades include a district-level calculation of the school grade components, beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and that school report cards must include student performance in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies;
- Provides parents with three assessment exemption options from the statewide, standardized assessments for specific students with disabilities;
- The bill substantially revises components of local assessment flexibility provisions;
- Standards for the performance levels required shall be established by the State Board of Education beginning with the 2015-16 school year; and
- Language is included that rewards school districts a performance bonus on a progress toward including educator effectiveness in personnel evaluations per the GAA.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HCTA Learning Conference
June 20, 2014

NEA Convention
July 1-6, 2014

AFT Convention
July 11-14, 2014

HCTA Packet Stuffing
July 21-24, 2014

HCTA Certified Rep Training
August 7-8, 2014

ESP Academy
August 9, 2014 (*Tentative Date*)

Pre-Planning
August 11-15, 2014

HCTA Certified Rep Training
August 7-8, 2014

First Day of School
August 19, 2014



HILLSBOROUGH CTA REPORTER

The official publication of the
**HILLSBOROUGH CLASSROOM
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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HILLSBOROUGH CLASSROOM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, INC. PAYROLL DEDUCTION ENROLLMENT CARD

I authorize and request the School Board of Hillsborough County to deduct Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association dues and assessments from my bi-weekly pay, and to transmit the deducted amounts to the Association office. I understand the School Board will discontinue dues deduction upon 30 days' written notification to the Association and Board. I understand that dues, assessments, contributions or gifts to the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes although a portion of the dues may be tax deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

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